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the most
valuable
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food
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infants
and
the
weak.
It is
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THREE GOLD MEDALS.



A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

MYRTLE GROVE
TOBACCO
CIGARETTES.
COOL, SWEET, FRAGRANT.
TADDY AND CO., LONDON.

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SPECIAL SUNDAY EDITION LATEST TELEGRAMS.

LOVE AND JEALOUSY.

EXTRAORDINARY MURDER TRIAL IN PARIS.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—A murder trial of an unusual character was concluded at the Assises yesterday. Accused was a baker's assistant named L'Abouille, 31, formerly in the employment of a widow named Bussac. L'Abouille demanded the hand of Mme. Bussac's eldest daughter, a girl of 15, and still at school. The request was refused, and in order to get rid of her, L'Abouille left the house, but the same night returned and hid himself. Next morning he entered the room of the girl he had proposed to marry, and fired 3 shots from a revolver. Though only slightly wounded, the girl ran screaming into the room of her younger sister. L'Abouille followed, and the 3 girls fled downstairs. Going after them, L'Abouille fired indiscriminately, and one of the shots took effect on the youngest girl, aged 11, who was killed. At the trial accused declared that Mme. Bussac had been his mistress, and that, infuriated at the loss of his situation, he had killed her. He thought that the girl he loved would probably be another's, he lost his head and did not know what he was doing. Mme. Bussac vehemently denied L'Abouille's assertions, and called upon the jury to vindicate her honour. Accused was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

FIGHT AT A CHURCH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 9.—Despatches received here from Uskut give the following account of the serious conflict which occurred there on Christmas Eve in connection with the celebration of Divine service by Mr. Ambrosius, the Greek bishop. The authorities had received orders from Constantinople to permit the service to be held during the Christmas holidays in both the Serbian and Greek languages. Nevertheless, the Mass was read in Greek only, and the Serbians were prevented from entering the church by a detachment of soldiers, and the celebration was around the building. Exasperated at this, a large number of Serbians attacked the gendarmes, who finally drove back the crowd with the butt ends of their rifles. Mr. Ambrosius, who had been escorted to the church by Greeks, under the protection of gendarmes, was on the point of being connected back to the Greek school in the same way. In consequence of the disturbance the church has been again closed by the authorities, and no service has since been held.—REUTERS.

MAZHAR BEY ACQUITTED.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 9.—Advices received to-day from Mazhar Bey, who has been acquitted by the Military Court, before which he was tried on the charge of being answerable for the murder of the Italian priest, Father Salvatore. Orders for a new trial have, however, been given by the Sultan.—REUTERS.

COLLISION IN INDIA.

Bombay, Jan. 9.—The Ahmedabad mail train on the Baroda Railway collided this morning with a mixed train of passenger coaches and goods trucks which was standing at Nohlad Station. The result was most disastrous, the express train travelling at a good speed at the time. Five passengers were killed, and 24 injured.—CENTRAL NEWS.

THE BECHUANA TROUBLE.

A telegram from Hase Fort says that the patrol sent to Mr. Combrink's farm has returned and reports all safe. The wife and child of Mr. Robertson (Robinson), who was murdered on the Maseru river, have been rescued. CAPS TOWN, Jan. 9.—The country round Hase Fort, where the Vryburg Volunteers are in garrison, is quiet, and there are at present no perceptible signs of a general rising. The headman of Takoun has asked for assistance to protect McLoone's stores, and 30 men have been sent there.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

BLANTYRE, Nov. 17.—The overthrow of Chikusi is likely to have good results for the planters in the Blantyre district, as many of his people have declared their intention of going to the Shire Highlands to seek work. Chikusi used to levy large fines on such of his men as went to Blantyre for work. Letters from Central Africa report that the chief Chikusi is assuming an extremely threatening attitude towards the missionaries there, who are urging action against him. He has been raiding in all directions. His people, though not actually Zulus, are up Zulu customs.—REUTERS.

THE CZAR'S HEALTH.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 9.—The nervous system of the Czar having suffered from overwork, and the Czarina being also in great need of complete rest, the imperial couple will, on the advice of their physicians, shortly leave the capital for a two-months' stay in Livadia.—REUTERS.

STANLEY ON EGYPT.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—The "Eclair" to-day publishes a report of a conversation with Mr. H. M. Stanley, M.P. Referring to the Dongola expedition, Mr. Stanley declared that Great Britain desired above everything a cordial understanding with France. He pointed out that if the British evacuated the country, the Egyptians tired of waiting for the authority of Europe to take the Sudan.

WRECK OFF USHANT.

FOUR LIVES LOST—SUFFERINGS OF SURVIVORS.

Yet another vessel has to be added to the list of those which have sunk recently off Ushant, where the Drummond sank last year. A fortnight ago the steamer Douro sank in the same locality, and yesterday there were landed at Dover the survivors of the steamer Belisue, 1,400 tons, which sank on Wednesday. She was bound from Bayonne to Antwerp, and getting out of her course, struck the rocks, which pierced her hull badly. She made water rapidly, and as there appeared no possibility of saving her, the captain ordered the men to take to the boats. Three got into the captain's gig, the first boat lowered being smashed up alongside, and the 11 who were brought to Dover got into long boats. So rapidly did the water gain upon the ship that they had scarcely got clear of her before she

SLIPPED OFF THE ROCKS.

and disappeared, carrying the captain and the remaining 3 men with her. The men adrift in the boat had not time to secure any provisions, and were without food or water during the whole time they were drifting about from Wednesday until yesterday. They lost sight of the gig almost at once, and on Friday sighted a large steamer, and made every endeavour to attract attention. In this they were successful, and the vessel, which proved to be the Glen Dochart, of West Hartlepool, bore down to them, and after considerable difficulty, owing to the heavy sea, got them on board. They were greatly exhausted, and several of them badly injured. They had passed the waves threatening continually to swamp the small and heavily-laden craft. The cold had also caused them terrible suffering. The men were in the highest terms of the kindly manner in which they were treated on board the Glen Dochart. They had, of course, lost everything, and when they were landed they were taken to the Sailors' Home, and made comfortable. They attribute the loss of the Douro to the fact that the French coast at that point. They had given up for lost their shipmates in the gig, as they did not think the boat could live in the heavy sea that prevailed, and they were extremely pleased to receive the news that these 3 comrades had been saved, having arrived at Brest.

MAN GONE MAD.

Some excitement was created in the neighbourhood of Dover Docks yesterday afternoon by a member of the crew of the Glen Dochart, which rescued the survivors of the Belgique, being landed strapped down, he having been raving mad. The man was taken before the magistrates, and subsequently removed to the county asylum. The captain of the Glen Dochart has been highly commended for his humane treatment of the shipwrecked men.

GALE AND FLOODS.

SERIOUS DAMAGE: SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

The heavy downpour of rain which commenced on Thursday evening, and continued incessantly for nearly 40 hours, has caused serious floods in several places. Near Earlsfield several cottages are seriously flooded, and a man and his little boy had a narrow escape from being drowned. The Thames Valley has also suffered. Just above Romney Island the water rose 12 in. in 10 hours owing to the sudden influx of water, and although the weir sluice puddles were open the stream at Windsor Bridge was a foot above high water mark. Since Friday night the river rose 6 in., and was still swelling. At Windsor Bridge the water yesterday was nearly 2 ft. above the head water level.

THE PLAGUE.

In Bombay the plague still continues to make terrible headway. A telegram from Bombay, dated yesterday, says: The Parsis have an ancient custom of announcing deaths by special cries in the streets. Recently the streets of this city have re-echoed to the melancholy chants of the criers telling of the death of this or that Parsee, and the effect upon the popular mind has been dismaying to the last degree. The city authorities have not taken the wise step of prohibiting these proclamations of death, much to the indignation of a portion of the Parsee body. Dr. Yernin, a notable Bombay physician, has gone to Saigon to obtain a special serum which, it is said, is used there with marked efficacy against the plague. He is not, however, expected to return till the middle of February. The exodus still continues, with the most disastrous result to the industries of Bombay, and the plague still makes headway.

SUICIDE OF A GARDENER.

An inquest was held at Lancing on William West, gardener, lately in the service of Rev. E. Peel, vicar of Lancing, who was found in a small water tank in the garden. Deceased left a letter denying that he had taken anything from the vicar's house, and stating there was a vile conspiracy against him.—The vicar said West was quite honest, but suffered from delusions.—Verdict, suicide while temporarily insane.

ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

St. Saviour's, Southwark, will be opened as a Cathedral for South London on Feb. 16. The Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and several bishops, as well as the Lord Mayor in State, will be present. Yesterday Mr. H. C. Stephens, M.P., formally opened a new board school in Woodstock-road, Finsbury Park, capable of accommodating 1,400 children.

MR. BALFOUR.

GREAT SPEECH AT MANCHESTER LAST NIGHT.

IMPORTANT DECLARATIONS.

GOVERNMENT DECISION ON THE RATE AID QUESTION.

Mr. Balfour yesterday visited Manchester and addressed a large meeting of constituents in the Drill Hall, Ardwick. Alderman Mark J.P., president of the E. Manchester Conservative Association, presided. Mr. Balfour met with an enthusiastic reception.—Mr. Balfour said that since he had last addressed a meeting of his constituents within these walls, he had conducted a long and busy life at home and abroad. When he last spoke there was great anxiety at the unexpected trouble that seemed to beset us from opposite quarters of the heavens. He was glad to think that during the 12 months the prospect of change had gone over the face of public affairs at home and abroad. When he last spoke there was great anxiety at the unexpected trouble that seemed to beset us from opposite quarters of the heavens. He was glad to think that during the 12 months the prospect of change had gone over the face of public affairs at home and abroad. When he last spoke there was great anxiety at the unexpected trouble that seemed to beset us from opposite quarters of the heavens. He was glad to think that during the 12 months the prospect of change had gone over the face of public affairs at home and abroad.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

They had given the clearest and most precise promises, and they were bound to bring it in and pass it into law. He believed that the great majority of Unionists in England, Scotland, and Ireland approved of that. All he asked of their Irish friends was that they should in a fair and candid spirit weigh the proposals which were passed into law, and should not lay upon the shoulders of the Legislature of last year the burden of crimes. They were crimes which ought to be borne by the Legislature of 15 years ago.

THE RELEASED DYNAMITE.

One or two other words in connection with the bill he was driven to speak, however painful the task might be. There were those who conceived a suspicion that the release by the Home Secretary of 4 or 5 of those prisoners who had been condemned for dynamite outrages was in some mysterious way connected with the Parliamentary proceedings in the Irish Land Bill, or with the policy of the Government in the House of Commons. The Home Secretary, acting as all his predecessors had acted in such matters, upon his own responsibility, guided by competent medical advice, thought that he was not justified in releasing longer in confinement certain prisoners who had been condemned to long periods of imprisonment. He did not consult, and ought not to have consulted, the Government, of which he was a member, on such a departmental matter, and the first he (Mr. Balfour) and his colleagues heard of the matter was the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons. There was ample time during the remainder of that session of Parliament to cross-examine his right hon. friend upon that administrative act, but the opportunity was not taken. If there were any who still entertained their suspicions, the dishonour for dishonour there was created, not upon those with regard to whom the suspicion was entertained, but upon the shoulders of those who entertained it.

RATE AID FOR VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

He was bound to say a word on the subject of rate aid for voluntary schools. He was not going to give an opinion in the abstract for or against rate aid for voluntary schools. He was a Scotchman—(laughter and cheers)—and he came from a country where rates were habitually, almost invariably, employed for the support of denominational religious education. He therefore had no prejudice against the system, nor did he believe that in the abstract there were any solid arguments against a general scheme of education, denominational in its character, and supported partly out of the rates and partly out of State aid. But they had to consider the actual circumstances, not of education in general, but of education in Scotland, but of education in England, and the system which had grown up in England since 1870; and he said that the decision of the Government had been that, so far as the bill which would be immediately brought in for dealing with the rate aid question, that they did not propose to make any proposals with regard to rate aid for the support of these schools. (Cheers.) The public opinion of the Unionist party, and of managers of voluntary schools, was not ripe for any change of the revolutionary character which rate aid for education was concerned. To go into the fight such as they would be involved over this question with their forces divided, for there was a division of opinion even amongst those who devoted most time to the subject of religious education, would be the work of political lunatics.

IRELAND'S FINANCES.

With respect to the question of financial relations between this

country and Ireland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had very properly observed that the proper place for thrashing out the question was on the floor of the House of Commons in the House of Commons the details of the matter must be sifted, but he felt bound to say something about it now. It was a singular thing that there should be any new discoveries to be made upon this subject in 1896 and 1897. About 50 years since the Irish people, and England were amalgamated, and since then, to all intents and purposes, they became one country for fiscal purposes. During the latter time the opposite side had been in office for the greater number of years with the exception of Mr. Gladstone, but it was not till 1893 that the discovery was made that this country had robbed Ireland to the extent of £2,700,000 a year. (Laughter.) How had that startling conclusion been arrived at? England and Ireland were under a certain system of taxation excepting that there were a few taxes such as the land tax on houses duty, which were levied in England, and not in Ireland, and so far they would say that if there was any injustice it was not one of which Ireland had got to complain. While Ireland was excused from a certain burden of taxation which England bore there was no tax in force in Ireland which was not equally in force in England. How was it on these broad facts that the commission had arrived at the surprising results indicated? Well, they had discovered by methods of their own, but it was a burden of taxation which England bore there was no tax in force in Ireland which was not equally in force in England. How was it on these broad facts that the commission had arrived at the surprising results indicated? 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(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.) SHEILAH McLEOD; A HEROINE OF THE BACK BLOCKS.

By GUY BOOTHBY,
AUTHOR OF
"MR. NICKEL," "A BID FOR FORTUNE," ETC.

CHAPTER IX. SHEILAH'S LOYALTY.

A fortnight before my wedding day it became necessary for me to send a small mob of cattle away to Bourke, and as I had no driver, and could not afford to wait for one to put in an appearance, I determined to take them myself. Accordingly, having bidden Sheila goodbye, off I went, and, after what seemed an eternity, delivered them to the agent and passed the cheque I received for them into the bank to my account. Then, with a joyful heart, I turned my horse's head homeward once more. The journey back was a quicker one than it had been going, and only occupied four days. Night was falling as I reached the township, and as soon as I had turned my horse loose and snatched a hasty meal, I changed my clothes and crossed the creek to McLeod's homestead. It was the night before my wedding day, and with a wave of happiness flooding my heart I shut the gate behind me and went up the path. A warm glow of lamp light streamed from the window of the sitting-room, and the blind had been drawn. I could see Sheila's father, and Colin McLeod sitting talking earnestly together at the table. The solemn expressions on their faces frightened me, though I could not tell why, and it was with almost a feeling of nervousness that I pushed open the door and walked into the room.

When I entered there was a little embarrassed silence for a moment, and then Sheila came across the room and kissed me before them all and wished me joy of being home again. Both Old McLeod and Colin then shook me by the hand, but it seemed as if there was something wrong with them. I looked at them, and I passed with Sheila to the other end of the room, and stood leaning against the mantelpiece waiting for the matter to be explained to me. It was Sheila who spoke first. She stood beside me, and, taking my hand, said to her father:

"Dad, dear, do not let us beat about the bush. Tell me what is the matter. What is it about him?"

I picked up my ears, and felt a chill like that of death pass over me. What was coming now? I asked myself. Old McLeod rose from his chair as if he were going to make a speech, while Colin looked another way.

"James, my dear," said the old man, "you must forgive us for ever listening to such talk on the eve of your wedding day, but we will trust to your good sense to understand why we do it. Remember, none of us believe it. But we feel we ought to have your word against those who are hinting things against him."

"What is it they are saying against me?" I asked, my heart fairly standing still with fear of what his answer would be.

Old McLeod paused for a moment, and then, looking me full in the face, said:

"James, while ye have been away inquiries have been made concerning the disappearance of the Sydney detective, Jarman, who was here at the time of the races last year, and who has never since been heard of."

"But what has that got to do with me?" I asked, feeling all the time that my face must be giving damning evidence against me.

"No, no! Not quite as bad as that! But they say that he was last seen walking through the township towards Whispering Pete's house in your company, and that he has never been seen since."

"Of course, he was seen with me," I said. "He dined and spent the evening with us at Pete's house. But I don't see anything suspicious in that."

"Not at all," said the old man. "But that became of him afterwards?"

"How can I tell you?" I cried impatiently. "I was told that he went after the horse up North. He did not make me his confidante. Why should he? I had never seen him before that."

"Don't be angry with me, Jim, dear," said Sheila, looking into my face with her beautiful eyes. "Remember, none of us have ever doubted you for a moment."

"Thank God for that, Sheila," I answered. "It would not be like you to believe ill of an innocent man."

Colin McLeod was the next to speak, and what he said was to the point—straightforward and honourable, like himself.

"Heggarstone," said he, "in my official capacity I have to follow any instructions that are given to me; but I want you to understand that personally I do not believe you had any hand in the man's disappearance."

"Thank you, Colin," I said. "I don't believe you do."

Old McLeod seemed to me to be considering something in his mind, for presently he turned and looked out of the window and said:

"James, it's a nasty thing to ask ye to do. But I do it for motives of my own. Here is a Bible. He took one down from a shelf and laid it on the table before me. "For form's sake, will ye swear on it that ye know nothing of the disappearance of this man? It will make my mind easier if ye will, because, then, I can give your accusers the lie direct."

I looked from the old man to the open Bible, then at Sheila, then last at Colin. But before I could do anything, Sheila had sprung forward and snatched up the Bible, crying as she did so: "No! No! There shall be no swearing. I won't have it. Jim's word is the word of a God-fearing, honest man, and we'll take that or nothing."

If I perjured myself and swore that I knew nothing, then some day the truth might come out; and what would happen then? Like a flash up came the remembrance of Pete's visit, and my oath to him. Already I felt that they were wondering at my silence. Oh, agony of those moments! Then I made up my mind; and, taking Sheila's hand, lifted it to my lips, and said deliberately, and with a full knowledge of what I was doing, but with every word cutting deeper and deeper into my heart:

"I swear, by my love for you, Sheila, that I know nothing of the man's fate. Then she pulled my face down to hers and kissed me before them all."

"Jim," she said, "you know that I have never doubted you."

The others shook me by the hand, and then, after a few words about the arrangements for the morning, I said good night, and went home. But I did not know where he was going, and took no heed of my actions, but walked on and on—turning neither to the right hand nor to the left—conscious only of my degradation, of my lie to Sheila. I was ruined! Ruined!

When I reached the township, I found that I had been waiting for the night before my wedding day, and with a wave of happiness flooding my heart I shut the gate behind me and went up the path. A warm glow of lamp light streamed from the window of the sitting-room, and the blind had been drawn. I could see Sheila's father, and Colin McLeod sitting talking earnestly together at the table. The solemn expressions on their faces frightened me, though I could not tell why, and it was with almost a feeling of nervousness that I pushed open the door and walked into the room.

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Then turning to me she said: "Jim, you will tell them on your love for me that you know nothing of the matter, won't you, dear?"

The room seemed to rock and swing round me. A black mist was rising before my eyes. I was conscious only that I was lost; that I was lying, and wilfully lying, to the one woman of all others that I wanted to think well of me. What could I do? If I refused to tell them I would be giving assent to the charges brought against me, in that case I must and I would tell the truth, while, by being compelled to give my word, I should break Sheila's heart.

Then turning to me she said: "Jim, you will tell them on your love for me that you know nothing of the matter, won't you, dear?"

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marrying Sheila with a lie upon my lips? As it happened we were the first to arrive at the church, so we went in and waited. Presently others began to put in an appearance, until by three o'clock the little church was well filled. A few moments later there was a turning of heads and a whisper went about that the bride was arriving. By this time I was trembling like a leaf; and, I don't doubt, looked more like a man about to be hung than a bridegroom waiting for his bride. Then the doors were pushed open, and in a stream of sunshine Sheila, dressed all in white, entered on her father's arm. When she got half-way up the aisle I went down to meet her, and we walked to the altar, where the old clergyman was waiting for us together. Then the ceremony commenced.

When the last words were spoken, I, James, had taken Sheila to be my wedded wife, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, swearing to love her and to cherish her, till death should us part. The good old man gave us his blessing, and then with my bride upon my arm I passed down the aisle again towards the porch. The greatest event of my life was celebrated. Sheila and I were man and wife.

The little crowd gathered either side of the porch, parted to let us through, and we were in the act of turning down the path which would bring us out opposite McLeod's gate, when I was conscious of a tall figure in uniform coming towards me. It was Sergeant Jarman, the township police. He came up and stood before us—then, placing his hand upon my shoulder, he said:

"James Heggarstone, in the Queen's name I arrest you on a charge of murder. Warn you that anything you may say will be used as evidence against you."

Darkness seemed suddenly to fall upon me, but before it enveloped me completely I saw the crowd draw closer to us. I felt Sheila slip from my side and fall with a little moan, to the ground. After that I remembered no more of what happened till I woke up to find myself in a cell at the police station, feeling the most despicable man in the whole scheme of the universe.

The blow had fallen at last.

CHAPTER X.
THE TRIAL.

It was strange, but nevertheless a fact, how to be accounted for I do not know, that when I came to the cell at the police station, I was in my mind than I had been at all since Pete's visit to my house. The truth was the blow had fallen and my mind was set at rest once and for all. At first I was like a man dead, but now that my wits had returned to me, I was like a man who had still to die. Of Sheila I dared not think.

About sundown the sergeant entered my cell and found me lying on the rough bed-place with my face turned to the wall. He had known me since I was a boy, and it didn't take much to see that he was very sorry for me.

"Come, come, Jim," he said kindly, walking over and sitting down on the bed beside me. "Don't give way like this. Look your difficulties in the face and meet them with a bold front like a man."

"It's all very well for you to say meet them with a bold front," I answered, sitting up and looking at him. "But think what all this means to me."

"I know about that, my poor lad," he replied. "And there's not a soul but is downright sorry for you. You've been through a terrible time, and I'm sure you've had no notion but to arrest you as you are. We had our instructions by telegraph from Brisbane."

"But what made you arrest me?" I asked. "Surely they're not going to try to prove me guilty of the murder of this man?"

"I can't tell you anything about that, of course," he answered. "But we had to arrest you, and as you are to be brought before the magistrates first thing to-morrow morning you'll know then. In the meantime if you want to send for a lawyer you are, of course, at liberty to do so."

"I'll do so at once then," I answered eagerly, clutching, like a drowning man, at the straw held out to me. "I'd like to have Mr. Perkins if you will let him know. And might I have some paper, pens, and ink? I must write some letters."

"Of course, you can have anything you want for to-morrow," the sergeant answered. "Remember, Jim, you're innocent until you're proved guilty."

When he went away he did not forget to send in the things I had asked for, and as soon as I received them I sat down and wrote a letter to Sheila. With a quivering hand I wrote as easily as I tried to make it appear, I told her to keep up her heart, and tried to make her believe that this absurd charge must be quickly disproved, as, indeed, I confidently expected it would be. Even if the stigma should remain upon my character, they could not convict me of a crime, for want of evidence. As long as the grave under the rocks remained undiscovered, all would be safe. By this time Pete was probably in America, and the one-eyed doctor with him. The man who had taken the horse from me at the corner fence could say nothing about the body, because he had not seen it. So that in any case I must be acquitted. With this idea firmly implanted in my mind I described my arrest as the only possible result of all the malicious reports that had lately been circulated concerning me, and even went so far as to say that I was glad the business had been brought to a head at last. What was more, I stated that I felt so far convinced of the result as to arrange to meet her the following day after the examination before the magistrates—when we could enter our new home together freed of all false charges and suspicions. How far my hopes were destined to be realised you will see for yourself.

During the afternoon Mr. Perkins, a solicitor who had done two or three little bits of legal business for me in brighter days, arrived at the station, and was immediately brought to me. He was a sharp, ferret-faced little fellow, with a bald head, clean-shaven chin and upper lip, and bushy grey eyebrows. He had a big knowledge of Colonial law, and had been quietly working up an enormous business for himself, when so many of his fraternity were rushing to the cities to take their chances of losing or making fortunes there. He seated himself on a stool

near the door, and, while doing so, expressed himself as exceedingly sorry to see me in such an unpleasant position. Then, taking his notebook from his pocket, he set himself to ask me a few questions.

"I understand that you are prepared to admit having seen the man Jarman on the day of the race in question?"

"Quite prepared," I answered. "I was introduced to him immediately after I had weighed out!"

"By whom was this introduction effected, and at what spot?"

"By Whispering Pete," I replied. "And alongside the refreshment bar at the back of the grand stand."

"And he dined with you a couple of hours later, I understand. At whose invitation?"

"At Whispering Pete's, of course. It was his house."

"To be sure. Now think for one moment before you answer the question I am going to ask you. Were you present when Whispering Pete invited him? And what words did he use, to the best of your recollection?"

"It came about in this way. We had finished our drinks and were moving along the track that leads up to the refreshment bar when Pete said he was sorry the amusement was all over, as there was nothing to do in a little up-country township like ours in the evening. Then Pete said:—'Well, if you are afraid of being dull why not come up and dine with me? I'll do with pleasure,' said Jarman, and then we started off for home."

"That was exactly what occurred, to the very best of your remembrance?"

"It was. I think I have given you an exact description of it."

"And when Jarman reached Pete's house—you sat down to dinner I suppose?"

"Not at once. We each had a glass of sherry first, and sat for a while in the verandah."

"After which you went into dinner. Now, when did Jarman sit?"

"Between Pete and me, I think you would be in good spirits, think you? Did he seem to be enjoying himself? I am not asking these questions out of idle curiosity—you will, of course, understand that?"

"In excellent spirits. He told several good stories, described two or three sensational arrests he had made in his career, and I should say enjoyed himself very much."

"And after dinner? What did you do then?"

"We sat at the table smoking and talking till about ten o'clock. 'Leaving them still at the table I presume, please be particular in your answer.'"

"Yes, they were still at the table. I bade them good night, and then started for home."

"Had you any reason for going away at that moment? By the way, what time was it when you said good-bye to them?"

"Ten o'clock exactly. I remember looking at my watch and thinking how quickly the evening had passed."

"And what was your reason for going?"

"I could hardly tell you I'm afraid. You see I was expecting trouble with my father because of riding the horse for Pete, and I wanted to get the fuss over and done with as soon as possible."

"And when you reached your home, what happened?"

"I saw my father and we had a violent quarrel. He ordered me out of his house then and there, and I went."

"Where did you go?"

"I went back to Pete, having no where else to go."

"I saw you got there was Jarman still there, was he?"

"I stopped for a second. This was the question I had all along been dreading. But I had no option. If I was going to keep my plighted word, and Pete was to be saved, I could not tell the truth."

"Did you see him go—or meet him on the road?"

"No! I am quite sure I did not."

"And when you were alone with Pete and the other man, Finnan what did you do?"

"I told Pete that a nasty fix I was in, and let him see that my father had turned me out of doors for riding the Unknown."

"You still consider, then, that the horse was the Unknown, and not Gaybird, as people assert?"

"I cannot say, but never saw Gaybird, nor did I know that Pete told me his horse's name was the Unknown, and having no reason to doubt his veracity, that satisfied me, and I asked no further questions."

"I see! And what had Pete to say when you told him your confession?"

"He said he was very sorry to hear it, and asked how he could help me."

"And what answer did you give him?"

"I told him that he could best help me by finding something for me to do, and that I was not going to remain in the township idle, to be gaped at and talked about by everybody."

"A very proper spirit. And I understand that Pete said he would find you something?"

"Yes! He told me he had a mob of cattle then on their way to Sydney, and he had put a man in charge who was not quite up to the work, and that he went on to say that if I liked to have the post I was welcome to it. He said he thought, if I looked sharp, I could catch them up by daybreak!"

"So you started off there and then to try and overtake them?"

"Not at once. I had on my best clothes, and so I went home again, changed my things, got a stock whip, packed a few odds and ends into a valise, and then rejoined Pete, who had a saddle horse and a pack horse waiting for me by the creek. Then we started, and he had put a man in charge who was not quite up to the work, and that he went on to say that if I liked to have the post I was welcome to it. He said he thought, if I looked sharp, I could catch them up by daybreak!"

"Well, if that is exactly what happened," said the worthy old lawyer, "I really think I can get you off."

"I hope and pray you may, Fanny being arrested on such a charge on your wedding day. How would you like that, Mr. Perkins?"

"Provided it happened before the ceremony, and they did not look for me more than for the wedding, I should feel hard caught, but that could be dealt with," he answered. And as he said I remembered that he was a confirmed woman hater.

Shaking me by the hand he left me, and I sat down again to my thoughts. But my reverie was soon interrupted by the re-appearance of the sergeant.

"There is a lady here who wishes to see you," he said, and forthwith ushered Sheila into my cell. "You are soiled and sat down beside her, and she said:—'Sheila—my poor little wife, I said, with my arm round her neck, 'to think that I should have been separated from you like this on our wedding day. But we must be brave, little wife, mustn't we?'"

"Oh, Jim! My poor Jim," was all she could say in answer. "You are innocent. I know you are innocent. Oh, why are they so cruel as to bring this charge against you?"

"Of course I am innocent, darling," I replied, kissing her tear-stained cheeks. "I would not have laid a finger upon the man to hurt him for all the world. But you need have no fear. I have Perkins word for it that he can get me off. He has just left me after asking half-a-hundred questions."

"But if the man was not murdered, as they say, he must be alive at this moment, and in that case he will be sure to come forward and clear your character."

"Of course he will, if he's alive. But, thank goodness, I think I shall be able to clear myself without troubling him."

"Pray God you may. Oh, Jim, I feel like an old woman, instead of a young bride. I have seen so ill at the afternoon that my father would not let me come to you before. But I am going to make it up to you for all the misery you are suffering now."

"Who knows that better than I do, my darling?"

She rose to her feet, and then, stooping, kissed me on the forehead.

"My own true husband," she said, "I believe in you before all the world, remember that. Now I must be going. But first, may my father come in?"

"He will like to see him before all others," I said—and she went to the door. The officer outside opened it for her, and next moment old McLeod entered and shook me warmly by the hand.

"I wonder that you care to do this," I said, as I returned his salutation. "I hope it shows me that so far you do not believe me guilty of the horrible charge they have brought against me."

"I do not!" he answered stoutly. "No, James, my lad, in Sheila and myself, you have two stalwart champions."

"And I thank God for it," I replied fervently. "I will repay it you both, as I will see that when I am released."

The time was soon up for them to leave, so bidding me good-bye, they went out, and once more the heavy door closed upon me. But they had done so which had cheered me and made me far happier than I had been for some time past. Half an hour later my tea was brought to me, and by six o'clock I was fast asleep.

For the reason that I had had no rest at all on the previous night, I slept like a top now—a heavy dreamless slumber that lasted well into next morning. In fact, it must have been considerably after six o'clock before I opened my eyes. Then for a moment I was puzzled to know where I was, but my memory soon returned to me, and the recollection of the arrest and all that had followed it rushed back upon me. However, I was quite confident that in another few hours I should be at liberty, so my present captivity and inconvenience might only be regarded as temporary, and therefore, easily to be borne.

Outside the cell window the birds were chirping merrily, and now and again I could hear the voices of passers-by. Giving up an attempt to hear what they were saying, I began to wonder what Sheila was doing, and whether she was as anxious to see me as I was to see her.

Then breakfast was brought in, and by the time I had finished my meal and taken some exercise in the yard it was time to be going into court.

(To be continued.)

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
IS THE SCENARY OF HARRY CHILDREN'S GATHERING.

The Duke of Portland, Master of the Horse, entertained at Buckingham Palace the children of the servants employed at the Royal Mews. By permission of Sir H. Ewart, Crown Equerry, a large room at the palace was reserved for the purpose of the duke's guests, and under the superintendence of Lieut. J. Nicholas and Mr. W. Cullen, two of the palace officials, the apartment had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. A feature of the decorations were the prints representing the Queen and the various members of the royal family. Mr. J. Miller, another palace official, arranged a capital musical programme, and placed at the disposal of the company his private orchestra, an octette of accomplished musicians, comprising Mrs. Miller and her 17 daughters. The proceedings commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Tea was then provided for the children and their parents. A magic lantern exhibition and a punch and jelly show followed.

Subsequently a collection of seasonable gifts for the children. A novel tug of war between the boys and girls was the next form of amusement provided, the rope being a monster bon-bon, containing toys, which were shared by the victors and the vanquished and the victors.

There were also a bran pie and a "cackling hen" for the very small children. The entertainment closed with a general parade of the children of the Mews orchestra played selections of music, and the company before separating gave hearty cheers for the Queen and the royal family, the Duke and Duchess of Portland, and the officials responsible for the arrangements. The children's party was followed by a dance for the adults.

The chief mate and boatswain of the British barque George Le Hay were landed in custody at Southampton, and charged with ill-treating the crew, and charged with the death of the crew, and thereby causing the death of one man. Accused were remanded.

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it with the hands. See that there are no lumps left, and that the mass is of uniform softness. Now put the cream into a clean pan and melt it over a slow fire, and add a little vanilla flavour; then stir in the nuts, of whatever sort they may be, remove from the fire, and pour into tins that have been previously oiled, and mark with a knife into squares or oblongs that can be easily broken off. If almonds are used, dry them well after being blanch-

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—(Continued)

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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